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One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

May 8, 2017

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Every day, all around the world, American diplomats should go to work confident that the United States government is doing everything possible to keep them safe. However, over 100 days into your Administration, in the office most directly responsible for their safety—that of Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security—there sits an empty desk. And as long as that office remains empty, you are putting American diplomats at unnecessary risk.

We urge you to immediately nominate an Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security. The women and men in the United States Foreign Service who bravely serve our country – often in dangerous places and at great risk to themselves and their families – deserve to have a Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary in place ensuring that they are fully protected.

The State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security protects our diplomats at 275 diplomatic missions in more than 160 foreign countries. They are our first line of defense in not only keeping our diplomats safe but also in ensuring that so-called "soft targets" – such as the schools that the children of U.S. personnel attend – are protected from terrorist threats.

The tragic September 2012 attack on our diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya was a centerpiece of your campaign and one which you frequently spoke about, often with little regard for the actual facts. House Republicans spent millions of taxpayer dollars on a Select Committee that found nothing beyond what several previous investigations already had established. Given your significant focus on the Benghazi attack, we hope you will recognize the need to expeditiously nominate an Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security.

At a time of great global instability and turmoil, we cannot take anything for granted. In December, President Obama signed into law the bipartisan Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (S. 1635) which put into place several new requirements intended to protect our

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diplomats. We look forward to working with the next Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security to ensure that these provisions are fully implemented.

Every day that goes by without a Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security in place poses an unnecessary risk to our diplomats. We urge you to work with Secretary of State Tillerson in making this appointment as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee



BRAD SHERMAN
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and
Emerging Threats



ALBIO SIRES
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Western
Hemisphere



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



TED DEUTCH
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Middle East and
North Africa



KAREN BASS
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health,
Global Human Rights, and International
Organizations



WILLIAM R. KEATING
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Terrorism,
Nonproliferation, and Trade

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DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress



AMI BERA
Member of Congress



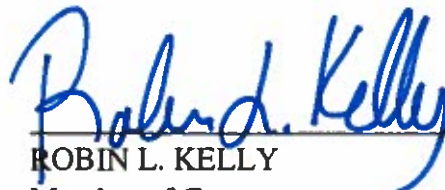
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress



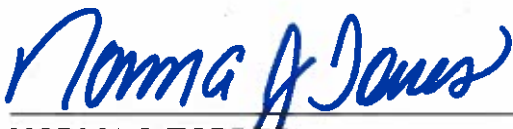
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Member of Congress

Cc: Secretary of State Rex Tillerson